

Remarks

Drawings

Applicant has corrected the drawings, specifically Figure 7, to include reference number 702 (attached). Applicant inadvertently omitted reference number 702. No new matter has been added to the drawings as reference number 702 is included in the originally filed specification at paragraph 0029.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 12-22 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. In response to that rejection Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 12, from which 2, 5, 8, 10, 13-22 and 25-27 depend; amended dependent claims 2 and 25 and canceled claims 15-16. Applicant believes that this amendment incorporates allowable subject matter into claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 12-14, 17-22 and 25-27 making them allowable. In view of this amendment Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Action the Examiner rejected claims 9, 11-15, 17-18, 21 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In response to that rejection Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 12, from which 9, 11, 13-15, 17-18, 21 and 23-25 depend; amended dependent claim 25 and canceled claim 15. Applicant believes that this amendment incorporates allowable subject matter into claims 9, 11-14, 17-18, 21 and 23-25 making them allowable. In view of this amendment Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Action the Examiner indicated that claims 3-4 and 6-7 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the Examiner's instructions Applicant has amended claims 3-4 and 6-7. Additionally, subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable has been added to all of the pending claims.


Conclusion

Applicant has provided the preceding claim amendments in a sincere effort to advance prosecution of this application and to place all of the pending claims in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added to the claims. Applicant believes this Response is fully responsive to the Action. Reconsideration of the patent application is respectfully requested.

Please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0581 for any requested fees.

Dated this 13 day of March, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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